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To: Attorney Renata Hesse **Fax:** (202) 616-9937

From: Jack Foley **Date:** 1/15/02

Re: **Pages:** 3

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January 16, 2002

Renata Hesse
Trial Attorney
Antitrust Division
Department of Justice
601 D Street NW, Suite 1200
Washington, DC 20530

VIA FACSIMILE: 202-616-9937

Dear Attorney Hesse:

I would like to comment with regard to the impending settlement in the Microsoft lawsuit.

As a School Committee member from an older industrial city, I see the problems of the "digital divide" in our school system. Scores of children attend schools with scant resources, which undermines the educational process.

I fully support the Agreement's approach of directing part of the settlement towards public schools. We have all heard about the digital divide that exists along socio-economic lines. This divide has an adverse effect on public education. Research states that 82% of classrooms in higher income communities have Internet access while only 60% of classrooms in poorer communities are connected. In my work with the families of low to moderate income in schools in the Clark University neighborhood, I can attest to the tremendous need for the opportunities that access to technology will provide.

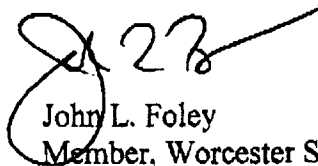
The New York Times recently reported on the differences in computer ownership along economic lines. In households whose income was \$75,000 or more, 88% had computers. That number dropped dramatically for households whose family income was below \$25,000. If this problem is not remedied then students from lower income families will continue to suffer. They will have distinct disadvantages in the pursuit of higher education and future employment opportunities.

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For this reason, I support the aims of the Settlement Agreement that has been proposed. This agreement will provide students with access to technology. The agreement calls for Microsoft to provide 200,000 computers to eligible schools at almost no cost.

I urge the Court to approve the proposed Agreement.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. L. Foley", with a large, stylized initial "J" and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

John L. Foley
Member, Worcester School Committee